

Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Friday, January 16, 2009

"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together." ~ Vesta M. Kelly

PEN Products is now hosting the Samaritan's Feet collection, sorting, and distribution at the PEN central office warehouse in Indianapolis. Samaritan's Feet is a humanitarian relief organization based in Charlotte, NC that puts shoes on the feet of children all around the world. Ron Hunter, the IUPUI Basketball Coach, has been raising awareness for Samaritan's Feet by coaching barefoot. Governor Daniels also appeared barefoot in his office this week to show his support for the program. PEN Products will employ offenders in sorting the donated new shoes and loading containers for overseas shipments, and the effort will be featured on upcoming episode of ESPN Sportscenter.

Branchville Correctional Facility, Henryville Correctional Facility, Rockville Correctional Facility, Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, and the Indiana State Prison all received reaccreditation at panel hearings led by American Correctional Association (ACA) Commissioner Thomas Stickrath at the 2009 Winter Conference in Kissimmee, FL.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility provided a tour to members of the Marion County Leadership in Action Program (LAP). This committee focuses on re-entry and efforts to improve services offered to recently released offenders.

The Affirmative Action Advisory Committee for Westville Correctional Facility, Indiana State Prison, and Camp Summit conducted a combined Winter drive for shelters in Lake, LaPorte, and Porter counties. The staff donated over 273 gloves, mittens, headbands, earmuffs, hats, socks, coats, scarves, gloves, sweaters, pants, and food.

Pendleton Correctional Facility continues to experience tremendous success in thwarting attempts by visitors to smuggle contraband into the facility. 2 arrests have already been made this year, and a total of 18 visitors were arrested in 2008.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility was ranked #1 in the state for the 4th quarter of 2008 for medical contract monitoring.

Westville Correctional Facility set a record with 45 staff volunteering to donate blood in one day. The facility's Employee Activity Planning Committee was able to give away two tickets to every donor for an upcoming Notre Dame women's basketball game, as well as holding a drawing for a free gas card.

Ball State University sent transcripts and letters of certification of graduation for 35 students at Correctional Industrial Facility. 24 men earned Associate of Arts degrees, and 11 men earned Bachelor of General Studies degrees.

The Plainfield Correctional Complex held a Citizen's Advisory Board Meeting. Superintendents Lloyd, Knight, and McCauley addressed members of the community by updating them with information about recent events and initiatives at each facility.

Indiana Women's Prison offenders and Oakland City University staff made 610 mosquito nets intended to help prevent the spread of malaria in Africa. The nets were delivered to Nimule, Sudan by Ms. Kristin Herrmann, IWP Program Director, and members of the Jesus Metropolitan Community Church.

A new offender Arts and Crafts program has been implemented at the Pendleton Correctional Facility.

Keep checking the Commissioner's Blog for updates and postings! This week, Commissioner Buss recognized outstanding employees from Reception Diagnostic Center and Indianapolis Women's Community Re-entry Center. The blog can be accessed from a state computer by going here: <http://intranet.idoc.in.gov/comblog/default.aspx>.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner